

## **GB STAMPS PUNCTURED CofA**

(John Mathews)

I read the article on this subject in Bulletin 334 (Feb 2005, p. 20) with much interest, as it is one of my particular areas of perfin collecting. I can add the following information from my own collection.

The February 10, 1911 cover referred to in the article was sold at a Melbourne (Australia) public auction in September 1903 for A\$600 + 10% GST + buyers commission. The return address on the cover is 72 Victoria Street, Westminster SW, from where the Australian High Commission later moved to Australia House in Aldwych. In the auction catalogue, the cover was described as the earliest known cover.

To the probable frustration of the buyer of the above cover (if he/she is aware of it) another CofA cover was sold on ebay in March 2004. The postmark date on this one is 18 October 1910. Like the 1911 cover, it is a mourning envelope. It sold for US\$168.

I have a “CofA” card used from Australia House, Strand, in 1918, and a cover dated 1 June 1950. These are my earliest and latest dates for the straight-line perfin.

For “CofA”, I have losse stamps postmarked Northwood S.O. (12 Nov 1915), Harefield (6 May 16), and Australian Imp. Forces/15 AU 16 (boxed)/Base/...S..... . Thus it appears that the 2 perforators were used in 2 different locations initially. My next dated copy is 15 Aug 1936 with a place name of “.....SON’S R...” – help please? The latest dated copy of this perfin I have is August 1981 on a piece with 8p and 12p Machins.

I have stamps showing perforator damage as follows to the 2-head die “C/of/A”. The top pin of the ‘A’ of the left head, and the top pin of the ‘A’ and right pin of the cross-arm of the ‘F’ of the right head are missing in 1948. These have all been repaired by 1951. This may account for the re-use of the “CofA” perforator in 1950 (see fourth paragraph above).